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The Cooperation of Northern and

Southern Democrats.

It has been reserved for a Democratic journal of the far South, the Houston Daily Post, to utter the most dignified and effective rebuke of those blatant Hearstites or logical Bryanites who are celling the Democracy in that part of the Union that they were misled and betrayed by Northern advisers three years ago. The Houston Post reminds the party that the belief in Judge Alton B. PARKER's availability and the movement for his nomination "started in the South.

"As early as 1903 representatives of Southern newspapers went to Esopus to visit Judge PARKER, and they persistently exploited his availability. It was shown that he was a Democrat of unflagging ewalty; that he had supported Mr. BRYAN faithfully in 1806 and 1900 when so many other Northern Democrats of prominence had sulked in their tents; that he was elected to the New York Court of Appeals in the year that the State went Republican. The only formidable candidate in the field against Judge PARKER WAS Mr. HEARST, and HEARST'S methods could not be tolerated by the Southern Democracy. The immodesty of the Hearst campaign, the vulgar and lavish use of money in the scramble for delegates, the evidences of corruption which crept out in the activity of certain men of questionable character, were all offensive to the Southern delegates, and they were almost a unit for Judge PARKER. It was felt that Judge PARKER'S nomination would at least lift the Democratic campaign above the level of scandal, and so it did."

We are not calling attention to this matter in order to reopen the historical question of the expediency of the particular choice made at St. Louis in 1904, but to exhibit a gratifying instance of the clear perception in the South of the main fact of the situation. The interests of Southern Democrats and the interests of Northern Democrats are perfectly identical, next year as in previous campaigns. They are identical and indivisible, whether the candidate is a sane and sound Northern man, nominated, as three vests ago, at the instance of Southern Democrats in the mistaken belief that no Southerner could be elected President, or a Southern man, representing the region whence most of the necessary electoral votes must come, nominated this time at Southern initiative with the hearty and hopeful acquiescence of the Northern wing of a party now recognizing a common responsibility and inspired by a common purpose.

For every right minded citizen, whether Republican or Democrat, who wants to no man on either side put by nomination within sight of the White House who is not fit to be in the White House if elected, it is a desirable thing that Southern and Northern Democrats should alike recognize this absolute identity of purpose, this perfect community of political interest.

We venture the conjecture that this principle of action is not more clearly perceived by the Houston Post, or by any of the Southern friends of the several Southern statesmen now regarded as available Presidential timber, than it is by the party's leaders of weight in the Northern States-by such influential factors in the coming campaign, for example, as ROGER C. SULLIVAN, the broad minded representative of the Illinois Democracy on the national committee, or as Colonel JAMES MCC. GUFFEY of Pennsylvania, who has never held and has never wanted an office for himself, but has labored with unceasing devotion for the national organization in which he holds so important a place.

The Shortage in the Wheat Crop of the World.

The advance in the price of wheat on our Produce Exchange to upward of \$1 a bushel is evidently due not to manipulation-as was the case at the time of the Hutchinson corner, when for a moment the price touched \$2, or the date of the Leiter corner, when it reached \$1.85-but to the well founded belief that the world's crop of wheat will fall this year far below the demand.

The belief is based on authoritative reports from all wheat consuming countries except France, and even in France there has been of late some reason to fear that owing to the prolonged drought the harvest will be less plentiful than was expected a few weeks ago. It is known that the yield of wheat in Russia will be very far below the average, while in Germany, Hungary and Rumania the anticipated shortage is some 40 per cent. In parts of Bulgaria it seems likely to be 80 per cent. Germany, which during the last year has sold wheat destined for the famine stricken districts of Russia, is now making large purchases of Argentine and Australian grain, for which Italy and the United Kingdom are competitors. As the supplies received from India are just now small, the United States to an extent seldom if ever paralleled may look forward to being the dictator of prices in the world's wheat market for some months to come. As it is already certain that our own output of wheat will fall much below the normal quantity, all the conditions seem favorable to an extraordinary rise in its price.

It may help us to appreciate the gravity of the reports that come from almost all wheat producing lands if we glance at the wheat statistics of the world. In 1905, according to a report of the United States Department of Agriculture, there was produced in all countries of the globe, taken together, 3,337,400,000 bushels of wheat. To this aggregate-we confine ourselves for the moment to countries that

contributed 65,628,000 bushels: Rumania, 100,000,000; Canada, 113,022,000; Argentina, 150,745,000; Hungary, 157,512,000; British India, 281,263,000; European and Asiatic Russia, about 560,000,000, and the United States, 692,979,000. That is to say, we garnered in the year named almost 150,000,000 bushels more than the next largest producer. This year it seems practically sure that Russia, Rumania and Hungary will have no wheat to export and that consequently we shall have no competitors except British India,

Argentina and Canada. Shall we have any wheat to spare? During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1906, we sent abroad a little less than 35,000,000 bushels of wheat and a little less than 14,000,000 barrels of wheat flour. Evidently, in view of the shortage in our own crops, we shall not be able this year to do much if anything toward making good the deficit in the supplies of foreign countries. The day indeed seems fast approaching when in normal years the whole of our wheat crop will be needed for home consumption.

President and Historian.

To a Massachusetts man, vaguely described as a millionaire, who visited the White House to tell Mr. ROOSEVELT that Massachusetts and other New England States were disposed to insist upon his renomination, the President is reported by the Springfield Republican to have said:

" Nonsense! If I were to accept the nomination after what I have said on the subject I would be

historically disgraced." It sounds like Mr. ROOSEVELT and has the ring of other utterances on the same subject attributed to him. He has written history and indulged in strictures upon the conduct and actions of his predecessors in the great office which he holds. He is too discerning a man not to realize that there would be a cloud upon his own title to fame if he were to stultify himself, and he is too impulsive not to tell his admiring but foolish friends frankly what he thinks his impartial biographers would say about him. Could the American people ever believe an American President again? Often the thought must have occurred to Mr. ROOSEVELT, and he has been very sure of himself when he replied to the politicians, self-seekers and time servers who urged him to disregard the pledge he made in the solemn hour of victory in November -- 1904.

Those who wonder why Mr. ROOSEVELT does not rebuke men like Senators HANS-BROUGH and BOURNE, who leave his presence with the belief on their lips that he will accept another nomination, and men like Representative FASSETT. who declare that he is "too good a patriot" to refuse the office-Mr. ROOSE-VELT'S idea of patriotism is that it would be his duty to refuse it-should remember the dignity of the Presidency. Other men in public life may feel themselves called upon to repeat and protest when their good faith is doubted, but the President of the United States need speak only once, such is the respect of the people for his high office.

Perhaps there is nothing that chafes Mr. ROOSEVELT so much as the unflattering unction that he is great enough to be different from other men who have can be a law unto himself.

In Oklahoma.

The situation in the proposed State of Oklahoma presents several unusual features. The constitutional convention elected in accordance with the enabling act of June 16, 1906, completed its labors when, in open convention, the draft of the Constitution was signed on April 19 of this year. Previous to this the convention had adopted an ordinance calling an election for August 6, at which the Constitution was to be submitted to the voters. Having performed its functions the convention adjourned.

Now a despatch from Alva, Okla., reports that Judge PANCOAST of the Territorial Supreme Court has issued an order restraining the convention, the Governor of Oklahoma, and the officials of Woods county, in that Territory, from calling an election prior to November, 1908. The details of the case are not given. Judge PANCOAST is a Republican, but it is to be assumed that his decision is not the result of his political beliefs, for although the Republicans are much dissatisfied with the work of the constitutional convention the chairman of the Republican committee of Ollahoma announces that an appeal from Judge PANCOAST'S decision will be taken. This appeal cannot be heard before the middle of June, and the Republican con-

vention has been called for June 6. Meantime the Republicans are to oppose the proposed Constitution at the polls, in the hope that they may defeat it. Should it be adopted by the people they will expect President ROOSEVELT to withhold his proclamation announcing the result of the election. Without the President's proclamation the Constitution would not become effective, the Territories to be united would remain in their present political condition and Congress would have to pass a new act before another effort at Statehood could

be made. The President might withhold his proclamation on the ground that the Constitution and form of Government proposed were unrepublican, or on the ground that they were not in accordance with the enabling act. Either excuse would be sufficient to justify his nonaction, for it does not seem that there is any method by which his decision may be reviewed, short of impeachment by the House and trial before the Senate. Obviously, if he, for party reasons, should refuse to act, a House of Representatives controlled by the Republicans would not impeach him. Mr. Roose-VELT is apparently the master of the

situation. At the same time he must consider not only the desires of Republican place holders and job hunters, whose objections to the Constitution are based on the fact that it would exclude them from the government of the new State, but also the opinion of the general public, which cares nothing for their disappointed hopes and ambitions. What would be

have a surplus for export-Australasia the effect on disinterested observers if President ROOSEVELT should refuse to admit the State of Oklahoma merely because its citizens preferred Democratic radicalism to Republican radicalism, and chose to commit the building of their political structure to the hands of the party to which Mr. ROOSEVELT does not belong?

How Universal Suffrage Works in

Austria. On May 14 was held in the Austrian or Cisleithan kingdom the first-general election under the régime of universal suffrage established by the law signed by the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH in the first days of the present year. As we pointed out at the time, this law superseded the most intricate electoral system that has ever existed, a system devised for the purpose partly of preserving feudal institutions and partly of assuring to the German speaking inhabitants of the kingdom a preponderance in the Reichsrath, or popular branch of the Austrian Parliament, to which their numerical proportion of the population would not entitle them. To that unfair ascendency the new law has proved, as was expected, fatal.

The number of seats in the Reichsrath which will be the outcome of universal suffrage is 516. Originally (in 1868) the number was but 203, which in 1878 was increased to 353 and in 1896 to 425. As only 399 seats were filled on Tuesday, leaving 117 to be fought for at a second balloting, it is impossible to state with accuracy the composition of the chamber. According to a telegram from Vienna, however, it is deemed probable that the majority of the lower house of the Reichsrath will be made up of Clericals. Agrarians and Poles. It follows that the German Liberals, the Pan-Germans, Old Czechs, Young Czechs, Slavs, Socialists and Christian Socialists will constitute already secured forty-five seats and are to compete for twenty more in the second balloting. In Bohemia the Czech Nationalists, whether belonging to the 'Old" or the "Young" faction, have suffered a disastrous rout, and the same thing is said to be true of the Nationalist parties in the other non-German provnces. The German Liberals have been seriously weakened and the Pan-Germans, who want to see the German speaking parts of the Cisleithan kingdom incorporated with the German Empire, have been almost annihilated.

During the last fifteen years it has been even more difficult to form a stable Ministry in the Cisleithan Reichsrath than in the French or Italian Chamber of Deputies. It was hoped that the difficulty might be lessened if the assembly were chosen on the basis of universal suffrage. Such has not proved to be the case.

The Puzzle Department in Politics. The Wattersonian method of locating candidate at least has the merit of novelty. If Mr. BRYAN would really care to see one, if he is genuinely interested, Mr. WATTERSON will gladly show him a guaranteed Democratic eligible for 1908. No names are mentioned. All is fascinating mystery. Geographically, Mr. WATTERSON stakes his man out in the true fashion of the ancient parchment key to buried treasure:

outh of the Potomac and the Ohio."

Mr. BRYAN has but to say the word and an experienced guide in coonskin cap. a Democratic Daniel Boone, awaits him at Louisville: We suspect, however, that Mr. BRYAN will answer in kind, and since riddles are getting popular, speak thus:

" My first is in Bull, but not in calf; My second's in Roar, but not in laugh; My third is in Van, but not in chumn: My fourth is in Ache, but not in bump; My fifth's in Noddle, but not in pate,

My whole is the name of my candidate."

Should this prove too difficult of solution Mr. BRYAN will simplify matters -and still preserve the delightful pleasantry of the puzzle department-by proclaiming the presence of a true and tried candidate who is bounded on the north by South Dakota and the Initiative, on the east by Iowa and the Referendum, on the south by Missouri and Anti-Injunc-Government ownership of railroads

Yankee Common Sense and Enterprise

Put to Shame. The announcement is made that the postal authorities have decided to forward all mail to the east coast of South America by way of Europe. As things are they can do no better; but this is even less creditable to our enterprise as a nation than would be the forwarding of mail to Halifax by way of Montreal, or to Havana by way of Mexico. The distances between New York and Rio Janeiro and between the English Channel and Rio Janeiro being practically the same, this plan simply means that Europe is one week ahead of us in mail communication with South America. In the matter of communication and reply Europe is two weeks

ahead. Let it be assumed that a merchant in Rio, in Montevideo or in Buenos Ayres desires to place an order for merchandise. He writes to this country, to England, to France and to Germany for quotation of prices. He could place his order in Europe before getting his quotations from the United States unless he resorted to the

cable service. With one week advantage in communication, two weeks advantage in communication and reply, three weeks the placing of an order, and nobody to Europe.

Government aid to a first class steamship line to Rio Janeiro and the River Plate is not a gratuity. It is a business investment for the nation.

Mr. ADAMS, chairman of the North Caroling Republican committee, whom the Hon. MARION BUTLER has charged with being a \$5,000,000 conspirator, is doing a little brisk "hurling" on his own account, "I have pierced his Judas Iscariot hide," he says of his accuser. This formal reentrance of JUDAS ISCARIOT into the political ring shows that the fine art of political amenity keeps its conventional standard.

CHINESE EXCLUSION.

Striking Statements by Hubert Howe Bancroft, the Historian of California, About Her Urgent Need of Asiatic Labor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A nemorial to Congress from the States west of the Rocky Mountains setting forth the opinions and wishes of the people regarding the presence of Asiatics would cause some surprise. It would show that throughout this region there has never existed that strong feeling against the Chinese which has been promulgated in political circles. It would show that for fifty years these people have been misrepresented by the press and politicians in subserviency, first to the gold miners of California, then to the San Francisco sandlotters and Kearneyites, and finally to union labor. It would show, even if true or partially

have been public sentiment in times past the problem has worked itself out to such results that any one may see what the interests of the country are at the present time. It would show that a large proportion of the best citizens of these States, farmers, merchants and manufacturers, orchardists, irrigationists and railroad men, the bone and sinew and brains of the land, those most interested in progressive industries and most active in general development, are not opposed to Asiatic labor, more especially Chinese labor, but are in favor of the admission into the United States of the people of China on an equality with the other yellow men of Asia, with the black men of Africa, and with the white men of Europe. It would show how the several grades of labor require corresponding grades of laborers; that the skilled mechanic will not do the work of the hod carrier, nor the common city laborer become a factory operative, farm hand, or domestic the Opposition. The Socialists have drudge. Yet the comforts of civilization and the progress and prosperity of the nation depend more upon low grade than upon high grade labor.

Such a memorial would show that for this most necessary low grade work Africans and Europeans are out of the question; that in agricultural and horticultural districts particularly it is Asiatic labor or none. However valuable the pegro may be to the Southern planter, he is worth nothing to Northern industry. The white working man in America, if sober and industrious, is not satisfied as a permanency with either farm hand or factory work; he aspires to the independence of a householder, and wants his daughters, instead of serving, to have servants of their own. Finally, such a memorial would show, as between Chinese and Japanese labor, that the former is greatly preferred.

The statements of these hypothetical memorialists, and other facts of like import, are all susceptible of proof, however strange it may seem, that for half a century half the world has been laboring under false impressions owing to the influence of bundreds of printed journals and thousands of public speakers, whose main purpose was to play upon the passions and prejudices of some while throwing dust in the eyes of others.

The early gold gatherers at the California placers, where the baiting of the Chinese in America began, took up the matter in a pirit of bravado and continued it as sport. Of all the strange humanity that came hither to share in the spoils of the land locted from Mexico by Polk's politicians none seemed more strange to the unsophisticated miners than those timid Celestials, with oblique eyes and shuffling gait, who confined their industry mainly to abandoned mines and rejected tailings.

There were other interlopers present who came under the ban of the legislative edict, passed soon after the organization of government, imposing a tax on all foreigners mining in California, white men from England, France and Germany, and men of dusky skin, Mexicans, Kanakas, mulattoes, and tropical islanders; but the former were able to take care of themselves, while the latter fled upon the approach of trouble. Only the patient plodding Chinaman remained to bear the brunt of the law, aimed in reality only at him-and after a long tion, and on the west by Wyoming and series of injustice and outrages in its execution finally declared illegal.

Meanwhile the miners must have their fun. Here to-day, there to-morrow, and back home before the end of the year, they cared nothing, nor did any one else, for the little gold the Asiatics gleaned from their leavings; but it was rare sport on a Sunday afternoon, when filled with whiskey, and mounted on mustangs, to raid a Chinese camp and see the Celestials scatter before their cracking pistols. When it came to knife practice, if peradventure some unlucky wight got his queue cut off too near the shoulder they were willing to apologize like gentlemen and admit that the joke was on them. To quiet their easy consciences, in the absence of any stray theft or murder to be fastened on their victims, there stood against them the law, which it was the duty of good citizens always to uphold.

After the placers became exhausted the Chinese drifted into other humble occupations, always useful, always unoffending. A little laundry was established in every town; some raised vegetables and peddled them from huge baskets swung to a pole across the shoulder, selling even to farmers, who in California as a rule decline the trouble of a vegetable garden of their own. The Chinese made excellent house servants; the best, the most efficient, the most faithadvantage in communication, reply and | ful, economical and respectful that this or any other country has ever seen. Houseknows how many weeks advantage in vives and mothers they relieved from dothe final delivery of the goods, it is little | mestic drudgery, making rural life possible wonder that South American trade goes | to thousands of families. The Chinese would have assisted in building up manufacturing industries, large and small, had they been permitted to do so. In the country, for many years and over wide areas, they alone made the fruit industry possible.

Here the trouble would have ended but for the evil influences of newspapers and politicians, who would not let die the agitation by which they had made money and secured power and place. Union labor became the chief support of the demagogues, who sought by every means in their power. and by endless iteration, to instil into the minds of white workingmen the idea that

they sustained wrongs and injuries by the presence of Asiatics. To the more intelligent class, who saw the falsity of their statements and detected the cloven foot under their robes of patriotism, they presented the moral and political sides, showing the effect of an American heathen who would not

assimilate upon our institutions, our lives and liberties, but they did not mention the problem involved in the presence of ten million African citizens and in the coming of many millions of aliens from the

slums of European cities. The agitators could always find a hearing among certain classes, saloon keepers and their patrons, hotel keepers and those who lived by or upon the public, pothouse politicians, loafers and all nonworkers Merchants, manufacturers and business men generally not directly interested would not go out of their way to engage in useless discussion; hence many true as represented, that whatever may were held to be anti-Asiatic who were not so in reality. It should be borne in mind

that by this time, and long before, no news-

office who did not denounce the Chinese. To learn that the Chinese are preferred to Japanese we have only to ask any one who has employed both. Japanese labor, however, is better than none. Anything is better than the continuation of this dog in the manger policy of union labor, which will neither do the work nor permit others to do it. Already a labor famine is upon us. The fruit industry in California is seriously imperilled and other industries have prob-

ably received their death blow. Knowing, then, the men and the means and the purposes by and for which these several consummations have come to pass, it is quite plain that Asiatic exclusion as a policy protective of national or individual interests, or for any other reason or pretence, is and has been from the beginning a stupendous sham. The authors of it well know that their attitude is deceptive, their professions are insincere, their assertions hollow, and their reasoning false.

HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT. SAN FRANCISCO, May 9.

A Democrat Discerned.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If David R. Francis of St. Louis should make a dozen peeches before commercial organizations and political clubs of the East, setting forth the Democratic faith as he holds it, the East would learn what a good part of the West now knows, that there is still one Democrat, fit to be Presdent, who is for reform without revolution SYRACUSE, May 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Some recent ommunications in THE SUN on the subject of pubishers who publish for pay in advance are especial interesting to me because I have had a little ex-perience myself lately, not in Boston, but in New York. I had the manuscript of a little book I wanted printed and showed it to a publisher of He read it himself and said that while the story was all right there was not enough of it to

make a book that was commercially valuable. Then, eager to see the manuscript within covers ideration he declined to undertake the publication. so sure was I that the book would at least not lo any money that I agreed to protect him from any loss—only about \$200 was involved—if he would get it out. Still he declined, though I showed that he would get a lot of free advertising, have a book on an entirely new subject, just the thing for summer reading: all of which he admitted, and he and no objection whatever to me as a writer and he liked the story. He declined, he said, wholly on the ground that he would not make anything on it and I would be out of pocket. He added that he did not wish, even indirectly to be the cause of

loss to any one are there any more in town like him? There aren't I am sure, and the nearest like him is one who told me that a book I proposed would not sell. I offered to bet him the cost of the publication, up to \$35 that it would. He declined the bet. He knew I was good for it, too. Was that due to the milk of human kindness in his system or lack of the sporting AUTHOR

NEW YORK, May 15.

Result of Railroad Baiting. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Why is it that this era of railroad legislation the tendency of our learned lawmakers is to increase rather than diminish the possibilities of accidents? Certainly not one member of the great travelling put ould begrudge the railroads their two and a half r three cents a mile in return for adequate pro-

tection for life or limb.

This rate reduction will result in one of two things or possibly a combination of both; either the service will be curtailed materially or the efficiency will be decreased with a proportionate increase of fatalities, consequently arousing the wrath, anxiety and indignation of patrons, many of whom, including prominent railroad men, carry with them on their travels a feeling that they may be next to have their names added to the list of railroad dead. Give us some kind of legislation that will restore confidence to the public; let the rallroads charge us what they like, but make them give us an inpolicy with each ticket purchased.

Importan Contribution to Sociological Science TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Did it ever occur to any sociologist that at least seven out of en of the cigar amokers one meets on the street vill carry their cigar on the left side of the mouth Count the smokers on the street and see if this condition does not prevail. Why is it?

This does not apply to pipe smokers. They are about equally divided. Coming down Broadway to-day from Fulton to Wall street I met twentytwo cigar smokers, only three of whom had their cigars on the right side of their mouths, and I wondered why. Can some observing reader solve the NEW YORK, May 14.

Protest Against the Fire ran's Risk.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Permit me as a taxpayer to enter my humble protest against the unwarranted heroism of the firemen who rush into flames and fumes and thus endanger their lives. To-day several firemen were carried out of a building in Broadway in an unconscious condition, and had it not been for the gallantry of their comrades they would all be corpses to-night, leaving widows or dependent families. The fire-men are a noble set of brave fellows, and it seems to me that it is inhuman on the part of the chies to allow them to go into the very jaws of death. They should do their duty prudently but not

NEW YORK, May 15.

An Unnecessary City Noise. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Night has been made hideous for some time past by the barking of dogs on West Twenty-third and Twentystreets, near Seventh avenue. To make the nuisance still more distracting a big mongrel with an unearthly how has just been added to the collection. You can imagine how agonizing all this is to a nervous or sick person.

I am told there is an ordinance strictly prohibiting these disturbing noises. Why in the name of humanity and civilization is it not enforced! NEW YORK, May 15. AN INVALID WOMAN.

Twas Ever Thus.

He studied charts and courses. He studied speed and form, He thought his judgment warm. He hied him to the racetrack.

Then hopefully he waited

For fortune and renown. His mind's eye saw a vision Of most ecstatic bliss Whereby his choice of equines Wouldstreakalonglikethis. Instead his calculations

That blamed old placid Dobbin dust loped along like this. MCLANDBURGE WILLOW

RAILWAY VALUATION.

WASHINGTON, May 15 .- There are various indications that an attempt will be made during the next session of Congress to provide for a physical valuation of the railway properties of the country through the Interstate Commerce Commiss other and perhaps a special agency. assumed that the physical value of any given railway being known, its passenger and freight charges can be adjusted on a basis of the relation of earnings to capital

actually represented. The part played by the physical or commodity value in rate fixing is indefinite. An effort is, of course, made by all roads to charge rates which will enable them to earn dividends on capital, whether the declared capital is actual or fictitious. Yet the history of railway operation clearly shows that this is an incidental rather than determining factor in rate charges. The Supreme Court has held that railways are lawfully entitled to a return that will pay operating expenses and a fair interest upor "value of the property devoted to the public use." Railway financial statistics show that if this rule were applied in all cases rates would be enormously increase paper could live and no politician obtain on many lines. Such increase would lead to bankruptcy in a large number of cases, for the reason that the higher charges would result in loss of business.

> This question found a practical illustration a few years ago in Michigan. An official valuation of all the roads in the State was made for the purpose of fixing a basis for taxation. Two systems were employed One reported commodity values and the other use values, or values based on net earnings. The commodity value of 710 miles of Flint and Père Marquette was reported as \$24,002 a mile. The value of the same 710 miles based on earnings was only \$410 a mile. The commodity value of 221 miles of Michigan Central was reported as \$93,081 a mile, while its use value was reported as \$41,859 a mile. Under the ruling of the Supreme Court a very ma-terial increase in charges would have been lawful on nearly all of the railway mileage of the State.

It is admitted that it would take several millions of dollars and several years of time to ascertain the physical or commodity value of the railways of the country. A readjustment of rates on such a basis would require considerable additional time. When all was done is would be found that changed economic conditions had so altered values as to make the whole work usele

OUR TRADE WITH FRANCE.

Her Dependence Upon Us for Many Thing Would Preclude a Tariff War.

Now that France has become a little restiv our tariff arrangements with German and has undertaken to discriminate agains Porto Rican coffee, it is of interest to note what the United States is buying from France and what we are selling to that country.

According to the Bureau of Statistics our

ommerce with Fra	nce for th	e last three
	mported from	
904	France. \$83,203,552	France. \$76,128,50
905	98,621,662	90,060,84
906	119,900,829	103,428,41
Total three years	\$301,725,553	\$262,807,8

We see that American trade with France worth more than \$10,000,000 a year more that country than it is to the United States or \$32,000,000 for the three years. In view o he fact that we buy from France very much hat we need not buy at all or that we coul f necessary buy of other countries it is doubt

or any of its dependencies sells to her, Philippine copra for instance.
Here is what we chiefly bought from France
in 1906:
Art works \$3.284.980
Art Works \$3,284.989
Automobiles
Books, music, maps, engravings, &c 415,511
Cheese 509,495
Copper
Cotton cloths 993,250
Cotton manufactures, laces, knit goods, &c. 14,075,206
(\$5,000,000 increase in one year and
\$7,000,000 in two years.)
Diamonds, uncut 1.081.742
Diamonds, cut 4,549,308
Other precious stones 4,678,632
China, porcelain, &c
Furs and manufactures of 8,465,784
Hides and skins 6,156,825
Gloves, kid or other leather 4,035,638
Paper and manufactures of
Slik, raw 1,181,042
Silk manufactures 14,797 504
Spirits, distilled 1,771,059
Wines 6,302,818
Wool, carpet 661,028
Woollen cloths
Woollen dress goods 3.022 584

Woollen cloths. 210.678
Woollen cloths. 210.678
Woollen cloths. 2002 584
There is no really good reason why we should buy a dollar's worth of cotton manufactures from France. We have the cotton—in fact, we sell France. We have the cotton—which the cotton manufactures we buy from which the cotton manufactures we buy from which the cotton manufactures we buy from her are made. True, what we buy is chiefly goods of finer grades (laces, &c.) than our present factories make, but we could if we wished build other factories with the necesaary equipment of special machinery and hire workers of the requisite skill to make such goods. Nor need we buy French champagne or other French wines. We have wineries in California, New York, Ohio and Missouri which are making champagnes and other excellent wines. Again, automobile manufacturing in the United States is being perfected so that our imports of foreign made autos will soon begin to decrease. The same is true of silk manufactures: £ far as France is concerned our imports of silk goods have remained practically stationary—314.000,000—for three years. That means that American made silks are coming more into use, for our consumption of silks has actually increased. Nor is France the only market in which we can buy all the diamonds, cut and uncut, which we need. It must be remembered, too, that French vessels carried \$78,000.000 worth of our total imports in 1906, as well as \$29.000,000 worth of soods in one year. France cannot afford to risk the loss of that large business.

Then consider our chief sales to France in 1906:

Agricultural implements.

Agricultural implements..... Cotton, raw..... Fertilizers
Fruits and nuts.
Hardware, builders'
Typewriters.
Leather, upper.
Tallow.
Lard. oil cake and oil cake meal.

Even the most casual study of this list of American exports to France shows that the United States is her only country of supply for the support of many of her manufacturing interests. Our exports of foodstuffs for the subsistence of her people and her live stock are also very important to her. Nor can she buy mineral oils elsewhere of the quality and value of those she buys from us. A Mystery of the Actor's Art.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Why are cur

tain calls a custom among our best actors and actresses. After the curtain is rung down upon s heartrending scene in which a repentant wite weeps copiously to the accompaniment of a chorus of female tears in the audience, why will this wife reappear to smile and bow and break the spelit To say it is inartistic is not to say en shooking to our appreciation of good effect. For instance, a tragedy occurs in the second act. The lights are low and the music slow. After the curtain is rung down the tain is rung down the corpse appears before the footlights to bow and smile. Oh. spare us this! Give us our Illusions and let s have our "luxury of woe." Let play to better effect, since the getting of good effect is

NEW YORK, May 15. Wisdom of Crookback. Richard was offering his kingdom for a horse.
"Take notice." he cried. "I didn't say tip."
Herewith they saw he was one of the few sages

The Case Reversed. Weary Willie-Reformed? Dusty Rhodes-Nope, I'm just a sociologist.

TOBACCO AND SMOKERS. Curious Facts Regarding the Use of the Weed in Many Countries

From Tit-Bite. In all Lord Wolseley's campaigns he made it a rule, where possible, to allow each soldier one pound of tobacco a month, which he considered a fair allowance. In Italy the military authorities recognize the weed as one of the comforts essential to the troops, and cigars are served out to them with their

daily rations.

In France there are 6,000,000 smokers, and of every fifteen there are eight who smoke pipe, five who smoke cigars, and only two who are cigarette smokers. Still the French consume more than 800,000,000 cigarettes a

year, or enough to go around the world 500 times if placed end to end in a line. In the total quantity of tobacco grown the United States rivals Cubs and the Philippins Islands combined, and British India is not very far behind the States.

It takes 6,500,000 acres to grow the world's Louisville, the Kentucky centre, though not so well known as Richmond, the Virginia centre, is the largest tobacco market in the

The best cigars manufactured come from Cuba, the tobacco for which is cultivated in the famous Vuelta de Abajo district, west of Havana. This favored spot is located on the banks of a river, the nature of the soil being such that in no other part of the world can leaves of such excellence be produced.

The most expensive cigars made cost about The largest cigars come from the Philip-

pine Islands, some of them being 18 inches Italy has the reputation of manufacturing ome of the strongest smokes in the world,

A good eigar will burn slowly and equally the weed that smoulders up one side is of inferior quality.

The color of the ash is not an accurate guide, but if the ash displays a black "lip," a thin dark line around the edge nearest the

mouth, it is proof positive of an indifferent cigar. The ash of a good cigar should also stand well.

If the leaf of a cigar has a greasy appear. ance or shows green blotches or is of a pale sickly yellow the wrapper is made of inferior

tobacco; the wrapper is a certain criterion of the cigar's contents.

Many believe that the light spots marking some cigars are indicators of the predatory

good leaf, but as a matter of fact these spots are due to the combined action of the sun and rain.
About 20,000,000 cigars are smoked yearly

n this country.

Laurence Oliphant, the celebrated author and traveller, is said to have introduced the cigarette into England, about the year 1844. They became quite common after the Crimean War, owing to their use by the Turkish officers.

In Tasmania no person under thirteen

years of age is allowed to smoke in a publiplace. Nearly everybody smokes in Japan the girls begin when they are ten years of age, and the boys a year earlier.

The smoke from the bowl of one's pipe is blue, because coming direct from the redhot tobacco it is very highly oxidized

it is highly watered and hydrocarbonized.

Great Britain spends on tobacco and pipes about £14,000,000 every year.

The Pied Bull Inn, at Islington, is said to have been the first house in England at which tobacco was smoked.

but the smoke from one's lips is gray, because

The Best Cellege Song TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUK—Sir: The opinion of President Hadley, printed in the Sunday Sun, that "Old Nassau" is the finest of all college song:

recalls to me an incident of last summer.

While six "frats" and myself were sitting around the camp fire in the Adirondacks one beastly rainy afternoon, the Dartmouth member of our party started up his college song, and with our help sang it to the end. At its conclusion the Hamilton man remarked: "I wish my college had a song like 'On the Banks of the Old Raritan.' " The Dartmouth man seconded the wish for his college and every one in the camp, myself included (a Union

larly expressed himself. There is not an alumnus living whose love for his alma mater outclasses mine, but I am man enough to say out in meeting what I believe in my heart, that for genuine go, martial swing, a reasoul stirrer, one that gingerizes the student anatomy equal to the Rutgers "On the Banks of the Old Raritan." Our camping party was composed of graduates of these colleges: Bowdoin, Hamilton, Dartmouth, University of Michigan, Columbia,

Williams and Union. There is an old saying that "a fice is a lively bird, but he can't fiy." Dr. Hadley is a wise man, an excellent college president, an unquestioned authority on matters purely academic, but when it comes to the making of a decision as to which is the best college song, I think the college boys themselves, who sing the songs in college and out of etter judges. AN Ex-GLEE.

LONDONVILLE, May 15. Improved Facilities for Travel in China-

From the Shanghai Times.

The conditions under which the journey from Pekin to Hankow can now be made by rail reveal a development in the all important matter of com of twelve or fifteen years ago would find it difficult to expect under the lanse of half a century At that time it was the accepted belief that China was so slow to move that it would take her a gen eration at least to make up her mind to build rail ways, another generation to turn the sod, and two or three more to lay the rails and get steam up on

the locomotives; and yet, almost within a decade we find her in possession of not one but haif a dozen well equipped lines of railway, and a score of others either planned or actually under construction; and, viewed in the light of the opinion the majority of us held, say just prior to the outbreak of the China Japan war, with regard to China's capacity for progress and development as they are understood in the West, the conditions that now exist would have seemed utterly impossible without the interposition of a miracle. At that time there was practically only one tedious way by which the capital might be reached from Shanghal, namely, be steamer to Tientein, or rather Taku, and thence by boat up the Pelho to Pekin. Or the boat hurnes might be broken at Tungchow, and the remainder of the way, along the Stone road, travelled on the back of a mule or donkey, or in a litter carried either by ponies or coolies, or in that frightful though picturesque looking instrument of torture on wheels springless Pekin cart.

Salton Sea to Dry Up Soon. From the Kansas City Star.

Frank H. Bigelow of Washington, a meteorologist connected with the United States Weather Bureau, and C. E. Grunsky, consulting engineer in the Government reclamation service, arrived in Kansas City yesterday. They are on the way from Washington to Yuma, Ariz., to conduct evaporation test for the Government in the Salton Se

"The Government is trying to find out the rate of evaporation," said Mr. Bigelow, "and we will make extensive tests and conduct experiments in this great inland sea—the Salton sink—to determine how fast the water evaporates there. The United States Weather Bureau hopes by the tests to be able to tell just how soon a given body of water in this Arizona and California country dries up. It will be of great value in connection with the reciamation service. In my confice the district the recise mation service. ce. In my opinion the Salton Sea will completely dry up in about eight years."

Exporting Cats.

From the London Tribune.

The export returns of the Board of Trade for the current period will contain a notable addition serv-ing to still further demonstrate the cosmopolitan haracter of England's free trade. It refers to a hipment of 100 cats to India, which a shipping office in the city was yesterday asked to arrange. The reason given for the novel consignment is that one of the plague districts is overrun with rates the cats are wanted to effect the neges slaughter.

Unfortunate Arrest of a Gallant Party. From the Korea Dally Times.

A gallant gambling party was being prepared the certain officers house when unfortunately two or three policemen rushed in and arrested away three gamblers and a large amount of money

Admitted. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT! HOW ABOUT Lugy Luster and Son, Ovark, I. T., deslers 'a staple and fancy groceries, entering the immortal bunds'

OBLAMOBA CITT, Okla., May 10. Company vs. Orowd.

Stells-Are things at sizes and sevens! Bells-Worse; twos and threes,